

**The Honolulu City Council**  
**Regular Meeting 2012 April 25, Wednesday**

**Resolution 12-57** Urging the State of Hawaii and the United States Food and Drug Administration to Require Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food.

**Position:**                    **Oppose**

**Submitted By:**        Robert Paull  
                             5393 Poola Street  
                             Honolulu, HI 96821  
                             <robert.paull@hawaii.rr.com>

**Testimony:**

I have been a Professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for more than thirty years in the area of crop production and plant sciences. This testimony is submitted as a private citizen and voter in the City and County of Honolulu, and not as a representative of the University.

The justification in this resolution are disingenuous, for example of the people involved in the 2007 survey cited in the first whereas only 8% characterized themselves as being well informed about genetically engineered food and 30% believed that non-GM fruit do not contain genes. All life irrespective of whether it is GM or non-GM contain genes.

The resolution also fails to point out that consumers already have a choice and can easily avoid GM food. Consumers can purchase organic food that is touted as being GMO-free and it can be so labeled.

Labels need to be truthful and not misleading. Labels should not be based upon views and beliefs. US labeling laws are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and aim to provide information related to health, safety and nutrition. There is no scientific evidence that GM-foods on the market are unsafe. You are being asked to endorse a social labeling based on belief and fear. This fear is generated by selective use of scientific data and not considering benefits and risks.

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